

the Iranian government, as well as a few telephone calls to friends and relatives alleged to be members of Israel's secret police. Like the McCarthy witch hunts of the 1950's, these individuals have been deemed guilty simply by virtue of their associations. This trial flies in the face of international standards ensuring fair, impartial, and even-handed judicial decisions.

Today, I have joined a number of my colleagues to shine light on this undemocratic process by cosponsoring H. Con. Res. 307. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the Administration should condemn the arrest and prosecution of the thirteen Iranian Jews. The resolution reminds Iran that the treatment of these individuals will serve as a benchmark in determining future U.S. and Iranian relations.

I am pleased to see Iran has made progress to moderate its society over the last two years. We need to encourage an open dialog between our people. However, this trial serves as an important reminder that Iran still has a long way to go before it is accepted back into the international community.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES GARRETT YOUNG FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a young scientist, Garrett Young, a 17 year-old homeschooled student from Branchburg. Garrett has achieved success on the state, national, and international levels. He has recently been recognized as a top winner at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) sponsored by Intel Corporation. This is the world's largest pre-college science competition that recognizes the world's brightest high school students coming from 40 countries for their scientific achievements.

At the international level, he took first place in the category of physics at the ISEF. He also won the Glenn T. Seaborg Nobel Prize Visit Award. The Nobel Prize Visit Award was awarded to the top two individual winners at the Fair and whom they believe will be future Nobel Prize Winners. His project was "Isolating Plasma Species Initiating Internal Electrostatic Fields for Plasma Heating," where Garrett found a way to increase the temperature of plasma in an efficient way.

At the national level, he won "Operation Cherry Blossom." This is a trip to Japan that is awarded by the U.S. Army to the top two individual projects of the entire ISEF competition. Garrett was awarded first place by the U.S. Naval Research Labs and the U.S. Air Force. He also received the second place Vacuum Technology Award awarded by the American Vacuum Society.

At the state level, Garrett won the Senior Division ISEF trip. He also received the Space Science Award, presented by NASA for his project studying space science, and the Metric Award given by the U.S. Metric Society for the best use of the metric system. In addition, he

was awarded a medallion by Yale University as the most outstanding junior student in Science and Engineering.

All of his specialized contributions to science are a result of his creative ability and meticulous thought. Mr. Young is truly a remarkable student with a prosperous future ahead of him. Today I honor Garrett's extraordinary accomplishments.

FY2001 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, last night the House of Representatives passed the Fiscal Year 2001 Defense Appropriations Bill. I voted in favor of that legislation because I largely support the priorities reflected in the bill by Chairman LEWIS, Ranking Member MURTHA and the Defense Appropriations subcommittee.

Today, the Budget Committee is conducting a hearing on my legislation, H.R. 3221, the Corporate Welfare Commission Act. Under the bill, a Commission would be created to root out unnecessary and wasteful subsidies, and report their recommendations to the House and Senate. Their recommendations would receive expedited floor consideration to ensure that members of Congress were put on record on these wasteful programs.

One program which is often mentioned as one of the most egregious examples of wasteful spending, and which was mentioned today by the witnesses, is the subsidy the government gives to encourage defense mergers. The program was created in 1993 and was intended to save taxpayers billions of dollars by allowing defense contractors to charge the costs of mergers to government contracts. A recent study by the Department of Defense reflects significant cost savings for the government under this program but an independent study by the General Accounting Office could not verify DoD's claims. According to the GAO study, the government spent approximately \$850 million on just the seven largest defense contractor mergers.

I think this program deserves closer scrutiny. While I don't question the nature of these mergers which have to be approved by the Department of Defense; I do question the policy of having the U.S. taxpayers pay at least a portion of the cost for such mergers. I urge the eventual conferees on the Department of Defense Authorization and Appropriations bills to consider a change in this policy.

THE NICARAGUAN "PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT OF 2000"

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "Property Protection Act of 2000"

with a notable list of co-sponsors. This bill will have the effect of removing the waiver for Nicaragua contained under section 527(g) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995. Under current law, the President may waive mandatory sanctions prescribed to castigate a government that has not resolved outstanding property claims made by American citizens. In the case of Nicaragua, the President has every year since enactment chosen to exercise this waiver.

I have been reluctant to seek this change to our law. It is the inaction of the Nicaraguan government in resolving a number of long-standing property claims by American citizens that compels us to take this action.

The Sandinista regime, which ruled Nicaragua from 1979 to 1990, confiscated the property of thousands of Nicaraguan families and a number of American citizens. That was wrong. The United States Congress has long been on record pressing for the rights of U.S. citizens who were expropriated to be fairly compensated.

The Nicaraguan government points out that it settled over 400 property cases last year. But these numbers do not tell the whole story. In fact, many of these cases involve individuals who have simply given up hope of recovering their properties and resigned themselves to accepting Nicaraguan government bonds worth a fraction of their face value on world bond markets.

There are also a number of cases that have languished unresolved for years. These include cases where the government of Nicaragua has been ordered by its own court system to make payments to Americans who had their property illegally confiscated. Another group of cases that have languished involve Public Sector National Corporations (CORNAP). The missing ingredient in resolving these cases is political will. In both instances, the rule of law can only be served if the government of Nicaragua lives up to its obligations.

This bill will bring real pressure to bear by restricting U.S. bilateral assistance and U.S. support for multilateral assistance to the government of Nicaragua. The bill contains important exemptions for humanitarian and disaster relief assistance to avoid penalizing the people of Nicaragua. The bill also would allow vital counter-narcotics assistance to continue to flow to protect our nation from illicit drugs.

The Property Protection Act of 2000, when enacted, will require the President to identify the 50 most urgent pending property claims by American citizens against the government of Nicaragua and to suspend assistance to the government of Nicaragua until these cases are resolved. This is not too much to ask. Our government has been very patient, but, regrettably, our patience seems to have been misinterpreted by the government of Nicaragua as a lack of interest.

This bill will insure that the government of Nicaragua, and other states around the world, will understand that our citizens cannot have their property stolen with impunity.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I ask that the full text of H.R. 4602 be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.